



## **Hope is Alive after Tsunami Headlines Fade**

*New water system in Thai coastal community supported by governments, industry and NGOs*

**Bangkok, Thailand** – When the Tsunami ravaged Thailand's coastal communities the needs of the people affected were urgent, the media coverage was moving, and the response from the public overwhelming. But nine months later, another kind of story is quietly unfolding – a story about the combined efforts of businesses, the Thai Government, NGOs, and U.S. government agencies to deliver a large water treatment system to several of these devastated coastal communities. Valued at \$400,000 (16.4 million baht), the new system is expected to provide clean drinking water to 800 families in Phang Nga Province's Kuk Kak Sub-district.

The 47 ton water system was donated by the Parkson Corporation, an American producer of water purification and waste water systems located in Florida. Many employees at Parkson were moved by the stories they saw on the news, but the loss became personal when a Parkson employee learned that his parents died in the Tsunami while vacationing in Thailand.

To bring together the extra support needed, the U.S. Government rallied resources from private companies, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the U.S. Peace Corps. Altogether, ten different contributors demonstrated commitment to the Water Treatment Plant Installation. **Heart to Heart**, a US-based organization led the solicitation for donated shipping from FedEx valued at \$22,700 and **CDS Overseas** (FedEX's local shipper in Thailand) – Provided ship-to-door delivery of the 47 ton water system. **Chemitreat (Thailand) Inc.**, the licensed sole distributor in Thailand of the clarifier and filter components, provided technical support for the project and will facilitate long term sustainable management and repairs to the system.

"USAID's contribution to this water treatment installation reflects our dedication to our friends in Thailand." Tim Beans, the Regional Director of the USAID's Regional Development Mission/Asia furthered: "The support of these agencies, companies and organizations working together as a team was integral to the success of the Project. Through their participation, they are demonstrating their belief that public private partnerships have matured as a practice and now provide tangible value for governments, companies and stakeholders."

When Kuk Kak Sub-district Authority President, Mr. Chula Tiankrop, received the equipment he exclaimed, "In the months waiting for the equipment to arrive, I sometimes doubted if the project would ultimately be realized. This impressive system will encourage local citizens to look toward a brighter future and attract more tourism to the area." The Kuk Kak TAO provided \$45,000 (1.8 Million Baht) and staff to install piping and electrical work as well as operate and maintain the system.

"The people in these communities can now hold a glass of clean drinking water in their hands," said Tony Kolb, Technical Advisor to the project. "They can be comforted by the fact that the local agencies responsible for the new water system have gained the expertise to maintain it for future generations."

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For more information about the U.S. Joint Collaboration on the Parkson Donation, please contact Mr. Tim Beans, Mission Director, USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia, tel. +66-2-263-7400.